

NEWS RELEASE

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Secretary Johanns to Hold Farm Bill Forum in Greeley

(Lakewood, Colorado) --- October 24, 2005 --- Lewis Frank, State Executive Director for USDA's Colorado Farm Service Agency announced today that Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns will host a Farm Bill Forum Monday, October 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Island Grove Park Events Center in Greeley.

"The Farm Bill Forums provide an opportunity for USDA to hear directly from America's producers and other stakeholders who have tremendous insight to offer," said Johanns. "I'm approaching these listening sessions with an open mind, knowing the feedback we receive will be useful and help to set the course for a new Farm Bill."

The listening session is open to the public and seating is on a first come basis. Speakers are not required to register, and will have two minutes to make their comment. Written comments may be submitted to USDA at the listening session or via the website at www.usda.gov/farmbill. To send your message, select "Comment on the 2007 Farm Bill", which is the last item located in the middle section of the web page.

When participating in the forums, the public is invited to respond to one or more of the following six questions. The format of the forum will allow an open comment period for general Farm Bill comments.

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1. How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?
2. How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?
3. How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?
4. How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?
5. How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?
6. How should agricultural product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next Farm Bill?

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Colorado farmers, ranchers, rural citizens and agricultural organizations to comment on Farm Bill policy," said Frank. "On behalf of all USDA agencies including FSA's sister agencies, Rural Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, I encourage those impacted by USDA policy to attend the forum and lend their voice to the development of the 2007 Farm Bill."

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